

Message Text

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44

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 AGR-05 ISO-00 SSO-00 EB-07 IGA-02 SS-15

SP-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

INRE-00 IO-11 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /124 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6472

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 1279

PASS AGRICULTURE/FAS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, EAID, CG

SUBJECT: INCREASE IN LEVEL OF CCC AND/OR PL 480 FUNDINGS

REF: STATE 29844

1. EMBASSY HAS HAD A DISCREET INQUIRY FROM CITOYEN MAKOKO, DELEGATE GENERAL OF ONAFITEX (GOZ OFFICE OF FIBERS AND TEXTILES) TO KNOW IF USG HAS A PROGRAM TO ASSIST ZAIRE IN IMPORTATION OF 5 TO 6,000 METRIC TONS OF COTTON (ACCORDING LATEST INFO AVAILABLE EMBASSY APPROXIMATELY \$5 - 6 MILLION) WITHIN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS TO ALLEVIATE SHORTAGES IN DELIVERIES TO LOCAL MILLS. ZAIRE'S PROBLEMS WITH FUEL, SPARE PARTS AND MAINTENANCE OF ROADS HAVE SERIOUSLY IMPAIRED THE BUYING AND TRANSPORT OF COTTON FROM PRODUCTION AREAS TO MILLS. MAKOKO WAS INSTRUCTED TO MAKE INQUIRY ON AN INFORMAL BASIS WITH A VIEW TO FORMALIZING REQUEST, IF USG WOULD FAVORABLY VIEW SUCH A REQUEST.
2. LOCAL MILLS PRODUCE BULK OF COTTON TEXTILES. EMBASSY AGREES THAT THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF COTTON FIBER DUE TO DECREASED PRODUCTION AND MAJOR DOMESTIC TRANSPORTATION DIFFICULTIES.
3. IN VIEW OF RICE PROVIDED UNDER CCC AND PL 480, EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT CURRENT MOST PRESSING REQUIREMENTS FOR AGRICULTURAL

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IMPORTS ARE FOR COTTON AND WHEAT. ANNUAL WHEAT IMPORTS

ARE APPROXIMATELY \$30 MILLION. DEPARTMENT IS AWARE OF ACUTE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DIFFICULTIES. CONSEQUENTLY, WE URGE THAT CCC PROGRAM BE ENLARGED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL CREDITS FOR BOTH WHEAT AND COTTON.

4. WE UNDERSTAND FROM REFTTEL THAT WHEAT IS NOT ELIGIBLE UNDER PL 480 PROGRAM. HOWEVER, WE URGE THAT COTTON BE PROVIDED UNDER POSSIBLY ENLARGED CCC AND/OR PL 480 PROGRAM SO AS TO PROVIDE MAXIMUM ASSISTANCE.

5. AMBASSADOR CUTLER WILL BE VISITING WASHINGTON WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS AND WISHES TO DISCUSS THIS REQUEST.
WALKER

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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